

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

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Duck Foods Disappearing
From Lake Erie Marshes

Because little attention was paid to conservation measures some 20 years ago, the marshes near Port Clinton, Ohio, have lost comparatively all the valuable duck food resources they once supported in abundance, according to information received today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes from the Biological Survey.

The report was the result of an inspection by a Biological Survey expert to Lake Erie marshes along Muddy Bay and Sandusky Bay, where once waterfowl vegetation was so thick it impeded navigation. The Survey reported that duck food plants have dwindled almost to a point of extinction. It submitted recommendations on water control and other features of marsh management that may restore the area as a good duck food center for migratory birds.

The heavy action of the waves, the report stated is detrimental to plants and aquatic growth. As the vegetation disappears, the effects of wave action increase. A study of topographic maps made during the last 50 years reveals that many points and islands have disappeared in this area.